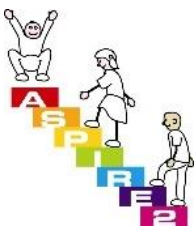


Aspire 2 Policy	Safeguarding Policy	
Approved By	Charlie Clare, Chair of Trustees	
Approval Date	4 May 2022	
Reviewed every	1 year	
Review Date	4 May 2023	

Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction

(i) Aspire 2 is a registered charity run for the following purpose

To work with children and families in deprived areas of Reading, to develop their capacity and skills in such a way that, they are better able to identify and help meet their own needs and participate more fully in society. A key aim is to involve the community in our work and to empower families to aspire to improved futures for themselves and their children. Through activities that develop skills and aspirations, we aim to develop:

1. Increased social mobility
2. Better self-awareness and resilience
3. Improved self-esteem
4. Ability to make informed decisions

(ii) The charity is based at:

Blagdon Road Nursery School and Children's Centre, Blagdon Road, Reading, RG2 7NT

Charity Number: 1120249

(iii) The charity has adopted this safeguarding child policy and expects every adult working or helping at Aspire 2 to support it and comply with it. Consequently, this policy shall apply to the manager, staff, trustees, volunteers, students and anyone working on behalf of the charity.

2. Purpose of the Policy

(i) This policy is intended to protect children and young people who receive any service from us.

(ii) The charity believes that no child or young person should experience abuse or harm and are committed to the protection of children and young people and this policy is intended to provide guidance and overarching principles to those who represent us as volunteers or staff, to guide our approach to child protection and safeguarding.

3. Universality of Protection

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Child protection is part of safeguarding and promoting welfare and refers to that which is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm. As adults, professionals or volunteers, everyone has a responsibility to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

The welfare of the child is paramount.

All children, regardless of gender, religious belief, disability, sexual orientation, or identity have a right to equal protection from harm.

Some children are more vulnerable to harm as a result of their circumstances, prior experiences, communication needs or level of dependency.

Working with children, young people, their parents and / or guardians, carers or other agencies is essential to protecting their wellbeing.

4. Risks to Children

The safety of all children needs to be considered in all circumstances. There are situations where children need protection including but not limited to

Sexual abuse
Grooming
Physical and emotional abuse and neglect
Domestic Violence
Inappropriate supervision by staff and volunteers
Bullying, cyberbullying, acts of violence and aggression within our schools
Victimisation
Self-harm
Unsafe environments and activities
Crime and
Exploitation

Aspire2 recognises the need for effective joint working with other agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. As such it

- is alert to the potential indicators of abuse or neglect
- is alert to the risks which individual abusers or potential abusers may pose to children
- works with other agencies to ensure accurate assessments of children's needs and circumstances

5. Safeguarding Children at Aspire 2 Events/ Activities

Both events and activities are to be defined broadly to include any occasion where the charity will be providing a service.

In most cases events and activities are run by the charity on behalf of schools and as such the safeguarding and child protection policy of the school will take precedence. However, as safeguarding is everyone's responsibility members of Aspire2 remain alert to their responsibilities. When Aspire2 uses external agencies to provide enrichment activities (e.g., Ufton Educational Trust), the policies and procedures of these organisations will also take precedence.

6. Disclosure and Barring

The sorts of activities offered by the charity are as follows

Residential visits
Sporting events
Cultural Events
Musical Events
Outdoor and adventurous activities

Additional enrichment activities

Some of our activities may therefore require adult participation or adult leaders to undergo DBS and/ or police checks under the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. The required level of checking will reflect the degree and frequency of access given to other people's children.

7. Allegations Involving a Member of Staff/ Volunteer/ Trustee

Aspire2 carries out checks to ensure that staff, volunteers and trustees are safe to work with children. Where appropriate, those involved in recruitment will undertake safer recruitment training. There may still be occasions when there is an allegation made against a member of the group or a volunteer. Any reports must be taken to the Safeguarding Leads within 24 hours or directly to the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO).

Allegations will be reviewed and passed on the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Landline: **0118 937 2684**

E-mail lado@brighterfuturesforchildren.org or directly to the police.

Allegations against members of the charity or volunteer will be considered as follows:

Has the person behaved in a way which has harmed a child or may have harmed a child?

Has the person committed a criminal offence against or related to a child?

Has the person behaved in a way which indicates that they are unsuitable to work with children?

The allegations may relate to the person's behaviour at work, at home or in another setting.

Where such allegations are made, consideration must be given to the following:

(i) a police investigation into a possible criminal offence

(ii) an assessment by children's social care services as to whether the child is in need of protection or other services

(iii) Disciplinary action on behalf of the employer.

8. Prevention of Bullying

As a charity, we do not tolerate the bullying of children either by adults or other children. If any incident of child-on-child bullying should arise at an Aspire 2 event, these will be reported to either the children's schools or if the school are not present to the parents of the children concerned. All incidents of bullying will be reviewed by the charity against the likely future risks to children and appropriate action taken.

9. Photographing or videoing of children

The charity is sensitive to the dangers of photographing or filming children and will only do so in circumstances where children and their parents give prior permission.

10. Managing Behaviour, Discipline and Acceptable Restraint

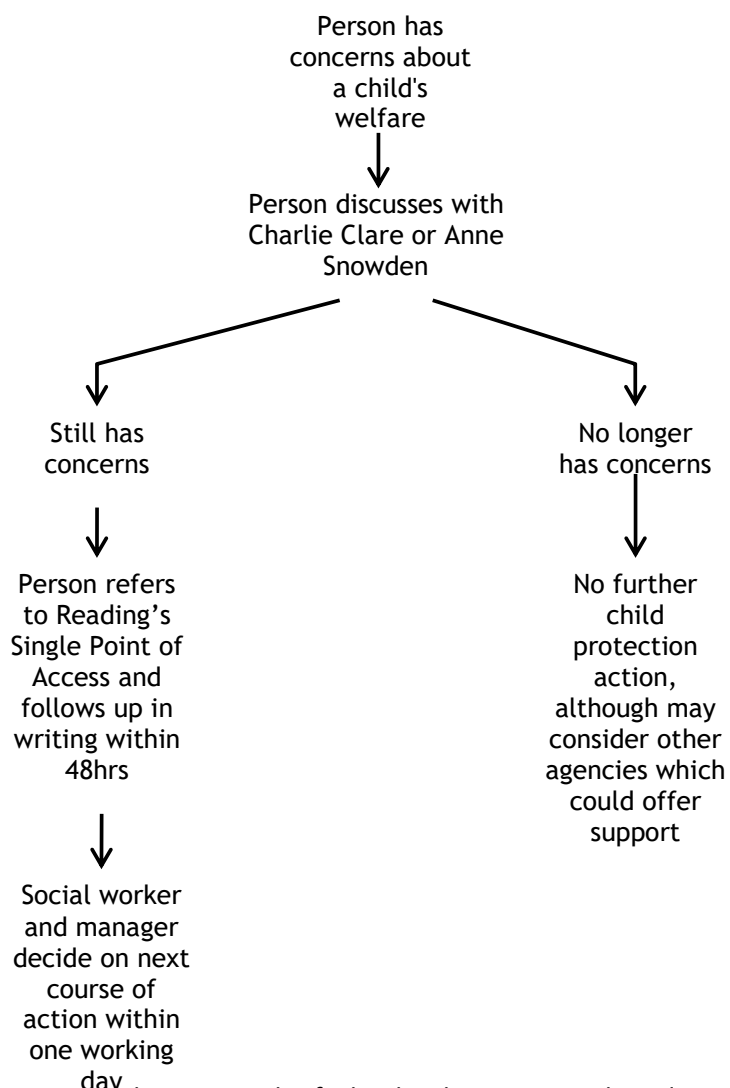
Members of the charity are rarely in a situation where they are supervising children unaccompanied, however they need to be aware of acceptable levels of behaviour and when this may have an impact on the safety and wellbeing of others. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, so members need to be prepared to intervene if a child is behaving in a way which is causing danger to others.

(i) Physical intervention of any kind should be avoided and de-escalation techniques used to calm situations. Restraint should only be used in exceptional circumstances where a child may be in immediate danger. Members must be aware that restraint can only be used to prevent injury to another person and then only the minimum necessary restraint should be used and afterwards parents and the school, should be called and asked to come and collect the child and given the information about the incident.

(ii) Unacceptable behaviour at events run by Aspire 2 should initially be referred to the adults accompanying the children – either the school or the parents / carers, however members of the charity may need to remind children about what is acceptable and safe. The parents or the school should be informed about any concerns members of the charity may have.

11. Procedure for acting on concerns about a child

(i) Process Chart where there are concerns about a child's welfare



(ii) Reporting of concerns may be as a result of what has been seen or heard, or as a result of a disclosure made by a child.

If a disclosure is made by a child, use the following guidance:

- Do not promise confidentiality, you have a duty to share this information
- Listen to what is being said, without displaying shock or disbelief.
- Accept what is said.
- Reassure the child, but only as far as is honest, don't make promises you may not be able to keep (eg: 'Everything will be alright now', 'You'll never have to see that person again')
- Do reassure and alleviate guilt if the child refers to it. For example, you could say, 'You're not to blame'.
- Do not interrogate the child; it is not your responsibility to investigate.
- Do not ask leading questions (e.g. Did he touch your private parts?), ask open questions such as, 'Anything else to tell me?'
- Do not ask the child to repeat the information for another adult.
- Explain what you have to do next and who you have to talk to.
- Take notes if possible or write up your conversation as soon as possible afterwards.
- Record the date, time, place any non-verbal behaviour and the words used by the child (do not paraphrase).
- Record statements and observable things rather than interpretations or assumptions

Record these concerns on the form attached.

12. What to do next

Whatever the nature of your concerns, discuss them with one of the designated persons

Charlie Clare, Retired Headteacher, Geoffrey Field Junior School and Chair of Aspire2
Email: charlieclare@gmail.com Tel: 07540 352 883

Ann Snowdon, Retired WEC Headteacher.
Email: ann_snowdon@hotmail.com Tel: 07901 917 998 for Aspire2

If you still have concerns, you should refer to:
Reading's Single Point of Access

There are 3 ways to contact the team:

1. Using a web form, which is the most secure and effective way of requesting help for a child. The form can be found at: <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/report-concerns-about-a-child/>
2. Calling the team on 0118 937 3641
3. Emailing the team on cspoa@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

12. Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance available to Aspire2. The principal pieces of legislation governing this policy are:

Children Acts 1989 and 2004
Data Protection Act 2018
Human Right Act 1998
Education Act 2011

Working together to Safeguard Children DfE 2018
Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2021
Prevent Duty Advice for Schools 2015 – updated April 2021

In addition, the following documents were used for advice and guidance

NSPCC Introductory Guide to Safeguarding and Child Protection for the voluntary and community sector
NSPCC Child Protection Records – Retention and Storage 2021
GOV.UK Safeguarding and protecting people for charities and Trustees May 2019, updated Nov 2

13. Reviewing the Policy

The policy will be looked at annually and updated in terms:

Personnel and contact details

Changes in legislation